

The BOMBARDIER

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Maintenance innovation beats limitations: Maintainers overcome manning, budget cuts

BY STAFF SGT. MIKE ANDRIACCO
2D BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Through the hard work, sweat and innovation of base maintenance and support personnel, the the number of sorties flown by the 2d Bomb Wing was significantly higher than last fiscal year.

The wing flew 2351 sorties in FY '06, compared to 2179 in FY'05 in spite of manning and budget cuts.

"In 2003, we had 965 personnel in the squadron. Now in 2006, we have 740," said Maj. Brent Wardell, 2d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Operations Officer.

New and innovative improvements had to be developed in how maintenance actions are performed to help cope with the loss of manpower and keep these aircraft flying, said Maj. Wardell.

Improved processes help maintenance professionals maintain the level of excellence reflected by the increased sorties, said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Horsburgh, 2d Maintenance Squadron Superintendent.

"We're proud of numbers, but more

proud of the dedicated Airmen sweating the long hours that make these numbers a reality," said Sergeant Horsburgh.

The phase section of the maintenance squadron inspects the aircraft and provides scheduled maintenance on time, extending the life of the aircraft by 300 hours per inspection, said Master Sgt. Mark Sheets, 2d Maintenance Squadron Production Superintendent.

"The phase inspection is a massive undertaking. This is where the powerful B-52 engines are inspected and dropped for repair, the entire fuselage of the aircraft is combed over using bright lights and non-destructive inspection techniques, looking for the smallest of cracks," said Lt. Col. Patrick McEvoy, 2d Maintenance Squadron Commander. "Electricians make sure the miles of electrical wire is all intact."

The phase section has initiated a ten day "phase flow" inspection process. This allows them to provide the Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons with four to five aircraft monthly representing 1,200 to



Staff Sgt. Erick Reynolds

Above: A B-52 conducts a fly-by here. Thanks to an improved flightline checklist, B-52s are ready to fly again in a matter of hours without having to do another pre-flight sequence. **Left:** Airmen from the 2d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron load a B-52 for a sortie. More aircraft are available for missions due to improved processes.



1,500 flying hours, said Sergeant Sheets.

Phase has also implemented a corrosion preventive inspection to the phase process, thus eliminating the need to schedule the aircraft down for three to four days and the use of limited dock space, he said.

"We have also implemented a new quick turn inspection checklist on the flight line, allowing us to turn an aircraft around in four hours which allows us to get a full second sortie without having to pre-flight the aircraft again," said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Briggs, 2d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Superintendent.

Another improvement made on the flightline was to come up with a better method of washing the aircraft, both for corrosion control and a quick return to operations, said Chief Briggs. Through an improved training and manning process, the wash time for a B-52 has been reduced from two days to one shift, he said.

"The 2d AMXS isn't the only player in this Herculean effort. The 2d MXS, 2d Maintenance Operations Squadron and the 2d Munitions Squadron all play a huge role in the 2d AMXS and 2d Maintenance Group's success," said Maj. Wardell.

Weekend Weather



Today
partly cloudy,
freezing precip.
Hi: 51
Low: 29



Saturday
Mostly sunny
Hi: 52
Low: 32



Sunday
Partly sunny
Hi: 51
Low: 31

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helps
ensure
retiree
benefits**

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Making the grade

Sortie Scoreboard

2d Bomb Wing monthly flying goals

As of
Nov. 24
Depicted
in
sorties



Goal:	88	62	59
Flown:	66	50	45
Remaining:	22	12	14
Above/below:	-2	+2	+4



Suicide prevention: Encourage to others to care

BY COL. DANIEL CHARCHIAN
2D BOMB WING COMMANDER

As 2006 comes to a close and a new year is on the horizon, we often reflect and evaluate what we would like to improve on in the future. These resolutions often encompass our work performance, our physical fitness, community service, and our commitment to our families. This year, I challenge you to also think about your role as a Wingman. How have you supported your co-workers and team? Have you stepped up when you witnessed someone in need? Have you been brave enough to contact the right people when you felt someone required more help than you could provide?

Our Airmen have always been our number one asset. Without them, our missions could never be accomplished. Therefore, it is important that we focus on preventing the second leading cause of death in the Air Force, suicide. The most recent statistics reveal that an average of one person kills him/herself every 16.7 minutes in the United States. In the Air Force, we have succeeded in maintaining a lower suicide rate than the national average. In fact, our numbers reflect 8.9 suicides per every 100,000 members, while the national average cites 10.8 per 100,000. Nevertheless, we need to remain vigilant and

keep in mind that even one loss of life is unacceptable. Our statistics show that male Airmen in the grades of E-3 and E-4 between the ages of 17-24 and have ready access to weapons or are intoxicated have the highest risk for committing suicide. Often times, these people are also experiencing a combination of relationship problems, financial issues, work-related problems, substance abuse and may be involved in legal trouble.

The Air Force's success in lowering the rate of suicide likely reflects our strong community spirit and access to professional services, but our commitment to our Wingmen's well-being should never falter. The last several years brought increased challenges to our Airmen. OPERATIONS Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom required a high ops tempo, more deployments and time away from family, increased work load and longer work hours for those staying behind and increased stress for all. This is a time to pull together and I challenge you to have the courage to care.

Being a good Wingman means paying close attention to those around you. If you notice uncharacteristic behavior or significant personality changes in someone you know, talk to the individual. Take notice of suicide risk factors and ask the hard question, "Are you having thoughts about hurt-

ing yourself or anyone else?" If there is indication of increased risk for suicide, tell someone who can help. This is never a secret you should keep to yourself. Seeking help is a positive step and rarely career-ending, nor should the stigma or inconvenience of reaching out be a barrier to keeping yourself and others safe. Being a truly great Wingman requires us to be there for each other everyday.

Please use and spread the word about the resources listed below. They are in place to help you, your fellow Wingmen and your families. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to you and your families.

Local Resources:

Life Skills Support Center
456-6600
Chapel 456-2111
Suicide & Crisis Hotline
(Command Post) 456-2151
Ambulance Services 456-6163
Security Police 456-2551
National Resources:
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647 www.militaryonesource.com
National Suicide Hotline 1-800-SUICIDE
American Association of Suicidology
www.suicidology.org
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)
www.save.org

Action Line 456-4000

actionline@barksdale.af.mil

The Action Line is an avenue for complaints, suggestions and kudos on services provided at Barksdale. Comments can help make the base a better place.

Although the Action Line is always available for use, the best and fastest way to resolve problems is through the chain of command or the organization involved.

Individuals are encouraged to go that route first. If the problem is still unresolved, call the Action Line and the appropriate base agency will address the problem. Positive feedback about Barksdale is also encouraged. Please leave a name and phone number when calling the Action Line as more information may be needed.



Col. Daniel Charchian
2d Bomb Wing Commander

Key Customer Service Numbers

AAFES Admin Office . . . 741-3243
Base Operator 456-1110
BX 752-9227
Casualty Office 456-2212
Civilian Pay 456-2741
Civilian Personnel 456-4502
Claims Office 456-5318
Clinic Patient Advocate . . 456-6361
Commissary 456-8263
Contracting 456-2113
Directory Assistance . . . 456-2252
Environmental Flight . . . 456-4629

Facilities and Utilities . 456-3072
Fraud Waste, Abuse . . 456-1000
Housing 456-4324
Inspector General . . . 456-5049
Law Enforcement . . . 456-2551
Legal Assistance . . . 456-2561
Military Pay 456-4733
Military Personnel . . . 456-2117
Retiree Activities Office 456-4480
Safety 456-2569
Services 456-2475
Travel Pay 456-2766

ATSO Question of the Week

Q. What are some thing to consider about a foreign country when traveling or deploying there?

A. Religion, dress and appearance, literature, food items, gender specific laws and customs and social customs.

Do not drink and drive. If you do drink...

Be Smart

0 To avoid alcohol-related incidents...



1 limit yourself to one drink an hour...



3 and no more than three drinks max!



Vision

The 2d Bomb Wing is first ... in peace ... in war ... to victory!

Mission

Exceptional warriors ready now to provide responsive, flexible and accurate bomber combat power and expeditionary combat support to warfighting commanders. Anytime, anywhere.

Vector

Total focus on mission excellence

Work together — take care of each other to build trust and teamwork

Offer opportunities for personal and professional wellness and growth



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BY CHAPLAIN (CAPT.)

CHAD BELLAMY

50TH SPACE WING CHAPEL SERVICE
TEAM

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The single greatest characteristic of Americans is their willingness to accept a challenge. That statement in and of itself could venture down many paths, but take a moment to consider how often you've personally challenged yourself.

Have you ever looked at a sudoku board, a crossword or a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle and thought, "no problem," only to still be working on it two weeks later? The truth is that they are typically more difficult than they first appear.

Today's wingman concept is nothing new. Col. Francis "Gabby" Gabreski, an early Air Force pioneer who is credited with 28 aerial victories in WWII, said

this:

"The wingman is absolutely indispensable. I look after the wingman. The wingman looks after me. It's another set of eyes protecting you. That's the defensive part.

"Offensively, it gives you a lot more firepower. We work together. We fight together. The wingman knows what his responsibilities are and knows what mine are. Wars are not won by individuals. They're won by teams."

Today, the strategy of having a good wingman is still relevant, but its application reaches far beyond the arena of aerial assault. When fighter pilots lift off into the great expanses of the sky, they may not know what threats lie beyond the horizon. Similarly, with each new day, we have no idea what lies ahead.

The common denominator is that daily challenges are conquered by responsible choices, and

creating a culture of responsible choices is reinforced by the presence of a good wingman. In the spirit of the Gabreski quote, "personal battles are not won by individuals; they are won by the reinforcement of good wingmen."

The challenge, like a thousand-piece puzzle, is that it can sometimes be more difficult than it first appears. The path of least resistance shouts for us to do nothing while a fellow Airman makes a life or career-threatening decision; however, accepting the challenge of being a comrade in arms is a daily whisper for us to courageously be involved. The moral courage to do the right thing is more than just ornamented words; it is the foundation of our Air Force Core Value: Integrity First.

One could say the acronym TEAM stands for "Together Everyone Achieves More." For centuries, armed forces have

strategized how their individuals can operate as a unit on the battlefield.

Unity is the key to effectiveness: If we want the "more," then we must have the "together." Your role as a sterling wingman is vital to any level of success.

In the coming year, imagine zero incidents of driving under the influence, zero substance abuse cases, zero safety incidents, zero domestic violence reports and zero suicides. If we achieved this vision, our Air Force would be heralded as a picture of strength and community.

This puzzle begins with a thousand little pieces, and even though it may be more difficult than it first appears, what a beautiful picture it will be when all the pieces come together.

Your piece of the puzzle is important. Make good decisions. Let's all be a part of the solution.

Discipline: The small things are no little matter

BY MAJ. JEFFREY VIRES

376TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING JUDGE
ADVOCATE

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Sometimes, in the morning, when it's cold, I'll walk to work with my hands warmly nestled in my pockets. Or I'll be leaving the dorm when it's dark, realize I've forgotten my reflective belt, but don't go back and get it because I work just across the street.

When I was notified I was deploying to a combat zone, and that I'd be receiving hostile fire pay, that caused me some trepidation. Upon arriving at Manas, for the first day or so, I made sure I was very aware of my surroundings. Now, almost half-way through my tour, after the benefit, albeit questionable, of all the

jalapeno poppers and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups I can eat, boardwalk sales and karaoke, do I still have the same level of awareness of my surroundings? Probably not.

Does my lack of discipline matter? Will we lose the war on terrorism because I forgot my reflective belt? Does a lack of discipline in small things really matter?

It mattered to one man: Gen. George S. Patton Jr. He had a lot to say about discipline: "There is only one sort of discipline, perfect discipline."

"If you can't get them to salute when they should salute, and wear the clothes you tell them to wear, how are you going to get them to die for their country? . . . It is absurd to believe that soldiers who cannot be made to wear the proper uniform can be induced to move for-

ward in battle. Officers who fail to perform their duty by correcting small violations and in enforcing proper conduct are incapable of leading.

"You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things. Brave undisciplined men have no chance against the discipline and valor of other men," he said.

Discipline in the small things does matter. If you go to the gym and work out regularly, not only does it benefit your health, but the repetitive nature of your activity mentally instills a healthful attitude. I think it's the same thing practicing daily discipline with the small things.

And if you think the small things don't matter, remember what else General Patton had to say: "Watch what people are cynical about, and one can often discover what they lack."

Last week's commentary was mistakenly credited to Lt. Col. Michael Holl instead of Lt. Col. Ronald Comogilo.



Airman 1st Class Alyssa Miles

Byron Hines, Bossier City's Northwest Louisiana War Veterans' Home administrator, and Colonel (ret.) dePyssler discuss their visions for the vet's home inside the building's lobby. The NWLVH is scheduled to open March 1, 2007. For more information on the vet's home, call Colonel dePyssler at 456-5976.

Local office ensures well-being of retirees

STAFF REPORTS

The Barksdale Retiree Activity Office has been serving local retirees and their families since 1971.

Now, 35 years later, more than 50,000 people rely on the RAO to deliver timely information and assist with veteran's affairs.

Col. (ret) Steve dePyssler, RAO director, and 15 retiree volunteers under the RAO work at the office a total of 30,000 hours a year.

The RAO assists all separating and retiring servicemembers with their Veterans Affairs benefits.

"For example, when a retired military member or his spouse dies, David Day, the casualty officer, prepares the necessary claim forms and the RAO meets with the widow or widower to go over all necessary information," said Colonel dePyssler.

The Barksdale retiree office is the only one in the Department of Defense that has a monthly newsletter informing retirees on

everything from social security to local events at the Barksdale Club. The newsletter is sent out to about 8,000 people in the local area.

For the past 15 years, the retiree office has briefed every first term airman on benefits, entitlements, motivation for education, commissioning application and personal and financial affairs.

The office also hosts many events throughout the year, including the nation's largest Prisoner of War and Purple Heart luncheons. Other events hosted by the RAO include the Strategic Air Command Reunion, the 8th Air Force Reunion and Massing of the Colors in Bossier City.

One of the biggest RAO projects in the works is the construction of the Northwest Louisiana War Veteran's Home in Bossier City, less than a mile outside Barksdale. So far, the RAO has raised \$170,000 in donations from many organizations.

"Names of those who donate more than \$300 will be placed on

a permanent plaque in the home's 'Hall of Honor,' Colonel dePyssler said.

"The Veteran's Home should be finished this year, but the first residents will not move in until the beginning March 1, 2007," said Colonel dePyssler.

According to the NLWVH Web site, the first residents will only stay in one area of the home – the Skilled Care/ Medicare Wing. Other wings will be opened after more veterans move in and more people are employed. While staying at the home, residents will be able to enjoy activities such as movie night and steak night, as well as receive clothing and toiletries.

"All of our efforts go towards helping active-duty, retirees and widows regardless of service," said Colonel dePyssler.

For more information on the RAO, call Colonel dePyssler at 456-5976. For more information on the NWLVH or to make a donation, visit www.nwlwvh.com.

Balad 'Port Dawgs' help limit ground convoys

By STAFF SGT. ALICE MOORE
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq—With each pallet pushed onto an aircraft flying out of Balad, another dangerous convoy mission is avoided and lives are potentially saved.

The "Port Dawgs" assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Aerial Port Flight, ensure assets are delivered to forward-operating locations throughout Iraq.

"We provide the unique capability to put massive amounts of personnel and equipment on the ground in a matter of hours," said Master Sgt. Jerry Miller the air terminal operations center and freight superintendent.

"We transport the 'bullets and beans' to the fight and then provide replacement parts and people through airpower," Sergeant Miller said. He is deployed from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

The port flight moves nearly 26,000 passengers and 8,000 tons of cargo per month, said Lt. Col. Zev York, the 332nd ELRS commander deployed from Barksdale AFB, La.

One convoy mission involves approximately 20 vehicles and 55 Soldiers. With each convoy approximately 240 tons and 80 pallets get delivered, Colonel York said.

"If we fly 1,000 tons by air, then we keep about 80 trucks and more than 200 Soldiers off the road," he said.

Airlifting provides a safer means to deliver much needed supplies and people as well as the capacity to deliver more at any given time, Colonel York said.

"The more we move by air, the less we move by road," Colonel York said. "Airlift provides a quicker and safer way to deliver the cargo and personnel to accomplish missions."

The flight is divided into five key areas — ATOC, load planning,

ramp services, cargo processing and special handling.

ATOC provides all command-and-control coordination for the flight. Load planning ensures all cargo scheduled for airlift meet weight and balance requirements. Ramp services ensure cargo is loaded and unloaded onto aircraft. Cargo processing handles the build up and breakdown of pallets and special handling deals with hazardous materials and human remains.

"Our finest hour comes when we are able to respectfully return the remains of those who gave all in helping Iraq transition to democracy," Sergeant Miller said.

The flight is also responsible for coordinating and certifying hazardous cargo movements with other locations and ensuring safety when loading the cargo onto aircraft. Sergeant Miller said the aerial port here is responsible for the building and breakdown of equipment to ensure it is ready for air travel.

In addition to the port's day-to-day responsibilities, the "Port Dawgs" recently became a part of history when they worked with the Iraqi air force during their first mission of delivering coalition cargo within the area of responsibility.

"This was pretty significant because it's actually showing the progress that is being made here," said Airman 1st Class Colton Markowski, ramp services journeyman deployed from Travis AFB, Calif. "It's bringing us one step closer to achieving our goal of



Staff Sgt. Alice Moore

Senior Airman Travis Maroste, 332nd Expeditionary air transportation cargo processor, breaks down a pallet. Airman Maroste is deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

helping to transition this country into a more democratic nation."

The flight also recently began operating out of their new aerial port complex. The complex provides 1,388,000 square feet of concrete pavement, in which 48,000 square feet are covered in the form of the new Balad Aerial Port Control Center and Air Freight Warehouse. Construction of the facility took about a 1.5 years to complete.

"Everything was in sand and rocks before," Airman Markowski said. "This new facility allows us to operate a lot smoother and more efficiently."

To best sum up the port's mission in the simplest way, "we basically provide anything you need to complete the mission," Airman Markowski said.

"Our airpower is going to get you timely service and we have fun doing it," he said.

Editor's note: Colonel York is the commander of the 2d Logistics Readiness Squadron.

AF announces 2006 as safest year in aviation

By STAFF SGT. JULIE WECKERLEIN
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

Fiscal year 2006 was the safest year in aviation ever for the Air Force.

The year marked the lowest number of major aircraft accidents and fatalities within the Department of Defense, said the Chief of Air Force Safety Maj. Gen. Stan Gorenc recently.

According to the statistics, the Air Force recorded 19 major aviation mishaps, eight destroyed aircraft and one aviation fatality.

"It's quite an historical accomplishment," General Gorenc said. "In 1947, the Air Force recorded over 1,500 major accidents and over 500 aircraft destroyed at a cost of over 500 servicemember lives. Obviously, there's been a continuous culture change in which safety has come into the forefront with everything that we do."

He credited great leadership and dedicated Airmen for such a successful year, emphasizing that education has been key to preventing mishaps.

"In safety, there's been a strong leadership approach," he said. "We're continually educating people on where they fit in the bigger picture, and we've been motivating them to be safe and to take care of each other. But at the end of it all, it comes down to personal responsibility. Airmen are going out there each day to be productive and as safe as possible."

General Gorenc said that while it's great to reflect on such a great year, it's important that Airmen do not let their guard down.

"The Air Force is a very vibrant organization," he said, "There's a continuous rotation of people coming and going, deploying or moving on. We have to stay engaged [in a safety mindset] by continually educating, motivating and activating our Airmen to incorporate safety into their everyday activities and routines."



Ensure safety during the holiday season

BY TECH. SGT. DEAN DAVIS
2D BOMB WING SAFETY OFFICE

Each year thousands of people gather with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. There is plenty of food, drinks and fun to go around. In the midst of all this joy safety should still be practiced. In the spirit of the holidays there are several precautions one can take to make their holidays safe and special.

- If making use of an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant

- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source and try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances.

- Place the tree out of the path of an exit, ensure exits are not blocked and everyone has access to the exit.

- Lights from trees should be kept off wrapping papers, curtains and boxes; newspapers, wrapping paper and magazines

- Some traditions use lighted candles on the tree, open flame, dry pine needles, and one gets the picture; refrain from using candles

- Always unplug lights before leaving the house and before bed.

- Do not overload electrical outlets; Overloaded electric outlets and faulty wires are the most common causes of holiday fires in residences

- Never use indoor extension cords outside and Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of snow and puddles

- Lights for the outside of the home should be for outdoor use.

Keep them off dry leaves and pine needles.

- Be careful about home decorations also. Ensure that lights/candles in the window are away from drapery and other flammable material. Place candles in sturdy containers; hot wax burns.

- Pets are a wonderful Christmas gift; however, ensure you can properly take care of your pet after the initial excitement wears off.

- If you have pets beware that cat in particular like to nestle in the warmth of a tree and gnaw at the cords. Watch for bare wires and such on your lights.

- Candies and treats are also a nice gift, but remember Dogs can smell through the wrapping and may chew through to get the treat. Keep candies and treats out of the reach of pets.

As we gather for holiday feasts, there are also certain precautions one must take in the kitchen.

- Unattended cooking is the

leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.

- Keep hot pots and pan handles turned to the side and not sticking out; ensure they are not accessible to small children's hands.

- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children.

- Additionally, have an exit strategy and practice the plan. Show children and family members the exits and what they should do in the case of a fire. Plan should include nearest exits, where to meet after escape and who to call.

- Last but not least, have a fire extinguisher readily available. Be safe and enjoy the celebrations

The holidays are a joyous time to enjoy the company of loved ones. Simply taking the time to ensure a few precautions will allow for a safe time to be had by all.



President Bush expresses Thanksgiving appreciation

By DONNA MILES
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — President George Bush expressed thanks in his radio address here Saturday, to servicemembers risking their lives far from home this Thanksgiving holiday to protect the rights the Pilgrims celebrated that first Thanksgiving Day.

The desire for freedom that drove the Pilgrims to Plymouth Rock, Mass., still guides the United States today, the president said.

“Americans believe that every person has the right to live, work and worship in freedom,” he said. “And we’re thankful to the men and women of our nation’s armed forces who risk their lives to protect those rights.”

The American people know that “many of our finest citizens are spending the holiday far from their homes and loved ones,” the president said. “And we know that their service makes it possible for us to live in freedom.”

President Bush said his visit to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, earlier this week reinforced his deep appreciation of the contributions U.S. servicemembers and their families make every day.

“Our servicemembers there have deployed around the world - to fight the terrorists in

Afghanistan and Iraq, conduct important maritime exercises in the Pacific, help deliver humanitarian aid to the victims of disaster and fight drug trafficking,” he said. “I told the men and women at the base that we’re grateful for their bravery and service and that we will never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.”

The president paid special recognition to Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham, who died in Iraq almost three years ago in Iraq, when he threw himself on top of an enemy grenade and absorbed the blast.

“His selfless act saved the lives of two of his fellow Marines, and earlier this month I announced that our nation will recognize Corporal Dunham with our highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor,” he said.

“Corporal Dunham’s friends remember him as the kind of guy who would do anything for you, his superiors remember him as a model Marine and a grateful nation will forever remember him as one of America’s most valiant heroes,” President Bush said. “This Thanksgiving, our thoughts and prayers are with his family and with all military families, especially those mourning the loss of a loved one.”



President George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush meet with servicemembers Nov. 21, on the Hickam Air Force Base flightline, before boarding Air Force One and heading back to Washington, D.C.

Sgt. Jeremy M. Vought



Tricare announces updated reimbursement rates

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — An updated list of the Tricare reimbursement rates is now available to beneficiaries. The changes for fiscal year 2007 include updated rates for inpatient mental health, residential treatment centers, partial hospitalization, hospice, and inpatient cost-shares for civilian hospitals.

“We take very seriously the president’s initiative toward transparency in health care costs,” said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity. “This is just one way we make the cost of medical services available to our beneficiaries.”


Tricare reimbursement rates are aligned with Medicare rates as set by Congress. However, Tricare does have some dispensations that may not be available to Medicare to ensure that beneficiaries continue to have health care available.

“It is important for our service members and their families to know that we will take care of them,” General Granger said.

Medicare premiums also change annually and now the Medicare Part B premium is linked to income. In 2007, individual incomes will trigger premium increases at \$80,000, \$100,000, \$150,000 and \$200,000. For married couples the premium rises when the income is double those amounts. However, this change will have no effect on Tricare costs or benefits for those who are also Medicare beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries may view the updated reimbursement rates on the Tricare web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/tricarecost.cfm. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Editor’s note: TRICARE online is now available to Barksdale members. Users must register as a beneficiary before they book appointments with their primary care manager. Active-duty members can log on at 7:30 a.m and all others can log on after 7:30 a.m. All active duty members must have a working account. For more information, visit www.tricareonline.com. A link is also available on the Barksdale home page.




WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN LIFE THAT JUST
WEREN'T MEANT TO BE HANDLED ALONE ...

IF YOU NEED A WINGMAN THE BASE CHAPLAIN,
THE LIFE SKILLS COUNSELORS, AND THE PEOPLE
AT 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) ARE READY TO HELP.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY



Safety first!

Modern Marvels,

Part 2

By Capt. Tony Wickman

71st Flying Training Wing

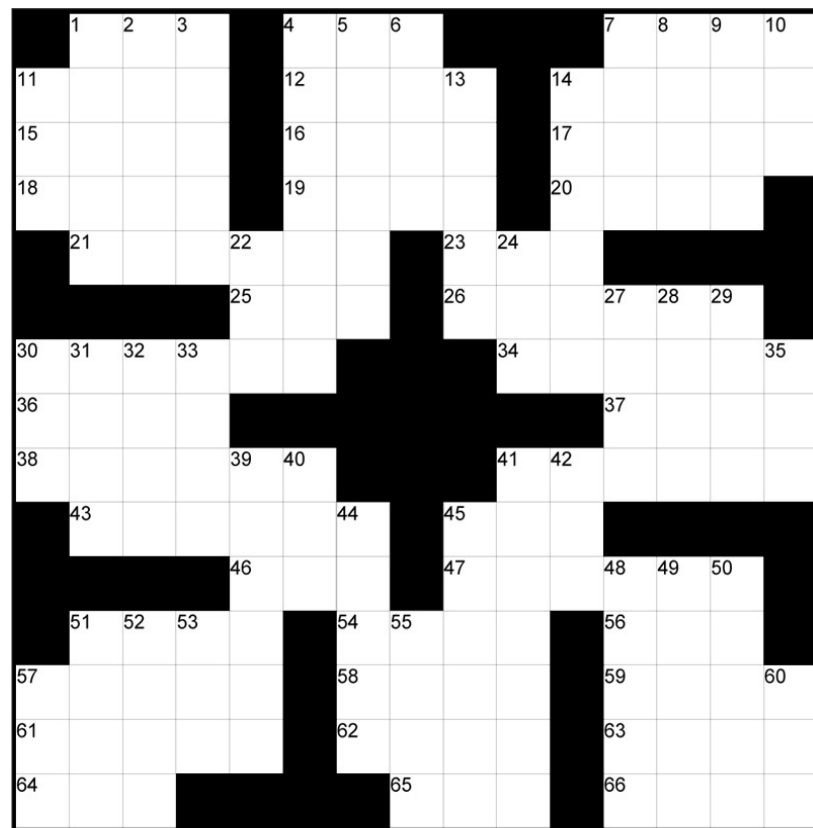
Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. 1995 film Rob ____
4. 56 to Cicero
7. Despise
11. Suite or brief follower
12. Snakelike fish
14. An automated modern marvel device designed to replace human effort
15. First man
16. Misstep
17. Abides by
18. Garden tool
19. King Mufasa's evil brother
20. Camp beds
21. Army special forces troop
23. Black and white short-necked, web-footed diving bird
25. Spanish one
26. Halloween goal
30. 1986 Weaver film
34. Road
36. Western Africa country
37. In the matter of, briefly
38. Facades
41. Compressed into a ball
43. Artificial
45. Address for male officer
46. Farewell
47. Not wearing clothes
51. Disturb or disquiet
54. Produced offspring
56. One Day ____ Time; 1975-1984 TV series
57. Keep planes safe in winter?
58. Repeat
59. Bail out
61. Manservant
62. Once more; again
63. ____ Brockovich; 2000 Roberts movie
64. ER attendants
65. CIA precursor
66. Frees yourself of something objectionable

DOWN

1. Heinrich Hertz invented this 1887 modern marvel to locate items
2. Japanese city
3. Arabian peninsula country
4. Condenses



5. George de Mestral created this 1955 'sticky' modern marvel
6. Hip bones
7. Tramp
8. Assist criminally
9. Playthings
10. LES column
11. Karl Benz invented this 'moving' modern marvel in 1885
13. Jack who could eat no fat
14. Robert Goddard invents this 1926 modern marvel to get to space
22. Pistol
24. ____ Graf; father of etching
27. Dry
28. Care for
29. USAF aircrew school
30. Federal org. concerned with alcohol, weapons
31. Accumulated facts, traditions, or beliefs
32. Inventor Sikorsky designed the modern marvel helicopter 1939
33. Long spans of time
35. Broadcast icon Turner
39. Capsule
40. Pig's pen
41. Bill Gates' 1983 modern marvel for computers

42. Circle part
44. African denizen
45. Soft leathers
48. Theodore Maiman created this modern 'optical' marvel in 1960
49. 1972 modern game marvel by Nolan Bushnell and Ted Dabney
50. Michelangelo's marble statue masterpiece
51. Nurture to adulthood
52. Lubricates
53. Frozen water
55. Nevada town
57. Modern entertainment marvel introduced in 1996
60. USN rank



Answers to last puzzle

Park It If You Pour.

Even a little alcohol can affect your judgment, balance and coordination. The fact is, almost half of the riders who die in solo motorcycle crashes have been drinking. Play it safe. Don't start drinking until you've finished riding.



(800) 446-9227 • www.msf-usa.org



Around town

Holiday Entertainment
The Louisiana Boardwalk will feature live Holiday entertainment every night in the month of December including school bands, dance groups, carolers, clowns and much more. Admission for the events is free.

Gun and Knife show
There is a gun and knife show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Bossier Civic Center.

Classic Arms Productions features all varieties of guns and knives to buy sell or

trade. Bring your gun and trade for the gun you always wanted. Admission for adults is \$6, for children 6-11 is \$2; 5 and under free. Children under 18 are allowed admission with parents only.

Bill Cosby
Bill Cosby-Star of the hit TV comedy, “The Cosby Show” author of New York Times best seller, “Fatherhood.” performs at the Horseshoe Riverdome at 8 p.m. December 8. Cost per person is \$65.

The Runaway Elves
The Cavalier Players will be joined by

Bossier Parish Community College’s Cavalier Choir, Cavalier Show Band, Cavalier Cheerleaders and Ladies in Gold for the annual Christmas revue. The event is 7 p.m. Thursday For more information call BPCC’s drama department at 318-678-6021.

Admission is free, attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods.

Medjoy Home
Enjoy a historical home tour at Christmas at Medjoy. Tours are today at 601 Ockley Dr. in Shreveport. The home was completed in 1929 and is on the

National Rigister of Historic Places. It is a private residence, beautifully decorated for the holidays. For further tour information call 318-861-4424.

Cost is \$5 per person. Group rates of 10 or more are available.

Country Christmas Festival
Celebrate the Christmas season with a full day of activities Saturday including a 5K run and a parade in downtown Vivian. Call 318-318-375-3633 for more information.

News Briefs

Retirements
Master Sgt. Meritt Nation
Master Sgt. Meritt Nation 608 Stratigic Operations Squadron retires after more than 24 years active service.
The ceremony is at the Chapel 2 Annex at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 14.
The dress is uniform of the day. For more information contact Technical Sgt. Kim Owens at 456-7875.

Master Sgt. Eferm Austin
Master Sgt. Eferm Austin, 2d Maintenance Operations Squadron, is retiring with 21 years of service at 10 a.m., Dec. 1 at the 2d Maintenance Operations Squadron, building 6614, room 103.
Dress is uniform of the day and business casual for civilians.

AFCEA
The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA)-Shreveport Chapter will hold it’s free monthly membership luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Dec 12. in the Barksdale Club’s Daedalian Room.
Ms. Donna Esnard, Cisco Systems™ will be our guest speaker. Seating is limited to 50 people. Please R.S.V.P. with Maj Schott, 456-1216, or via email at henry.schott@barksdale.af.mil.

Off-limits establishments
Barksdale members are reminded that Pipes Emporium and Koko Pellisin Shreveport have been deemed “off-limits” by order of the 2d Bomb Wing commander. Failure to comply with this order is punishable under the UCMJ.



Cajun Warrior Attitude

Catch it!

Family:
Mother, father,
brothers and
sisters

Hometown:
Carpinteria,
Calif.

Unit: 2d
Maintenance
Squadron

Job title:
Aircraft struc-
tural mainte-
nance journey-
man



Senior Airman
George Goeson

**Favorite per-
former:** Tom
Petty

**Favorite
movie:** Sweet
Home Alabama

Favorite dish:
Steak

**Favorite sports
team:** Go
Rams!

Favorite book:
PFE

By best asset

Most rewarding job aspect:
The people I work with and be-
ing able to keep America safe

Goals: School, rank and, one
day, a wife and kids

Hobbies: Pool, bowling and
watching games with my bud-
dies

Favorite TV show: CSI Vegas

Favorite movie: Any Bond
flick

My pet peeve: People who
can't drive

is: My cooking

Best day of my life: Any day
the Rams win

I'm proudest of: How well my
little siters are doing in life

People I admire the most: My
parents for raising me well

**What I like the most about
Barksdale:** The people I work
with

**If I could change anything
about Barksdale, it would be:**
The weather

2d Maintenance Squadron at a glance

Group
commander:
**Col. Steven
Shinkle**

Acting First
sergeant:
**Tech. Sgt.
Kenneth Hemphill**

Squadron
commander:
**Lt. Col.
Patrick McEvoy**

Services events

Firewood for sale

Stay warm this winter without running up the gas bill! Equipment rental has plenty of firewood to heat homes. A bundle of 10 sticks costs \$8, a quarter-rack is \$45, a half-rack is \$90 and a full rack is \$170. Loading is available for \$5 and pick-up and delivery is available by appointment for only \$25. Call 456-3426 for more information.

Santa's showcase

The biggest shopping event of the year takes place Saturday at Hoban Hall from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. at the annual Santa's showcase. Kids are invited to take photos with Santa while parents gather gifts on their Christmas shopping list. Call 456-1866 for details.

New bingo programs

Bingo is closed throughout the month of December. Two new programs – Big Money Bingo and Family Bingo – will launch in January bringing Barksdale two nights of bingo per week. Call the Barksdale club at 456-4926 to learn more.

Chainsaw maintenance

A properly maintained chain-saw can last forever. Bring your chainsaw in to equipment rental for a tune-up for only \$35 plus parts. The service includes chain sharpening, bar lube, cleaning, new spark plug and carburetor adjustment as needed. Call 456-3426 to schedule a pick-up time.



Barksdale U. : Seeking out educational opportunitites on base

STORY BY 2ND LT. FRANK HARTNETT
GRAPHICS BY SRA MEGAN HEWITT
THE BOMBARDIER

It’s easy to think of Barksdale as the home of combat air power, but some might forget that Barksdale is also a university. There may not be a student union or football stadium and it might not look like a college campus, but Airmen are earning an education and greater opportunities at Barksdale.

The base education office is the focal point for Airmen who wish to work on their acadmeic career. The office works hard to provide Airmen with the support they need.

“I think it’s great, there are a lot of choices, multiple universi-ties,” 2nd Lt. Zach Myhra, AGE flight commander said. “It is very convenient being on base and especially for the Airmen since its right next to some of the dorms.”

Footing the bill
Tuition assistance is the primary method by which Airmen use to finance their education while serving on Active Duty.
This program pays for 100% of tuition that falls within the tuition assistance guidelines. The program will provide coverage up to \$250 per semester hour and \$166 per quarter hour, for degrees up to the master’s level. G.I. Bill benefits can also be used to pay the remainder of any tu-tion that tuition assistance does not cover.
Tuition assistance secures up to \$4,500 each fiscal year for each Airmen to use towards their educational pursuits.

There is fine print on this program, Airmen must be seek-ing a degree that is higher than their current education level. Meaning, a high-school graduate can get an associate’s degree paid for and go on to seek a bachelors degree.

However, tuition assistance cannot be used to pay for an additional equivalent degree. So, if you already posses a bachelor’s degree, the pro-gram will not pay for an additional bachelor’s.

Making tests pay
Airmen take a dizzying array of tests, SKT, PFE, CDC and ASVAB to name just a few. Airmen are required to take these tests, so the idea of vol-unteering to take additional tests may seem painful to some.
The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support program and the College Level Examination Program can work to cut down the time needed to earn a degree.

CLEP is an exam which determines the knowledge level of students in specific academic fields. Depending upon the score the CLEP test can be used to earn college credit, without ever setting foot in a classroom. CLEP tests are usually \$60 for civilians but they are offered at no cost to military members. In reality DANTES and CLEP, are helping to put money in military student’s pockets.
For example, if an Airman passes the English literature CLEP test, they can receive college credit for their effort. If they were to attend a course to earn that credit it would be approximately three credit hours and the total cost for that class can range from \$330 to \$600 depending on the school.
Working to prepare for a CLEP test can pay big dividends later down the road.
There is support for those seeking advanced de-grees, master’s level work demands admissions tests that can cost hundreds of dollars. DANTES will refund students for the fees associated with taking the graduate level examinations (GRE) and graduate management admission test (GMAT). These tests are required for students seeking a master’s degree

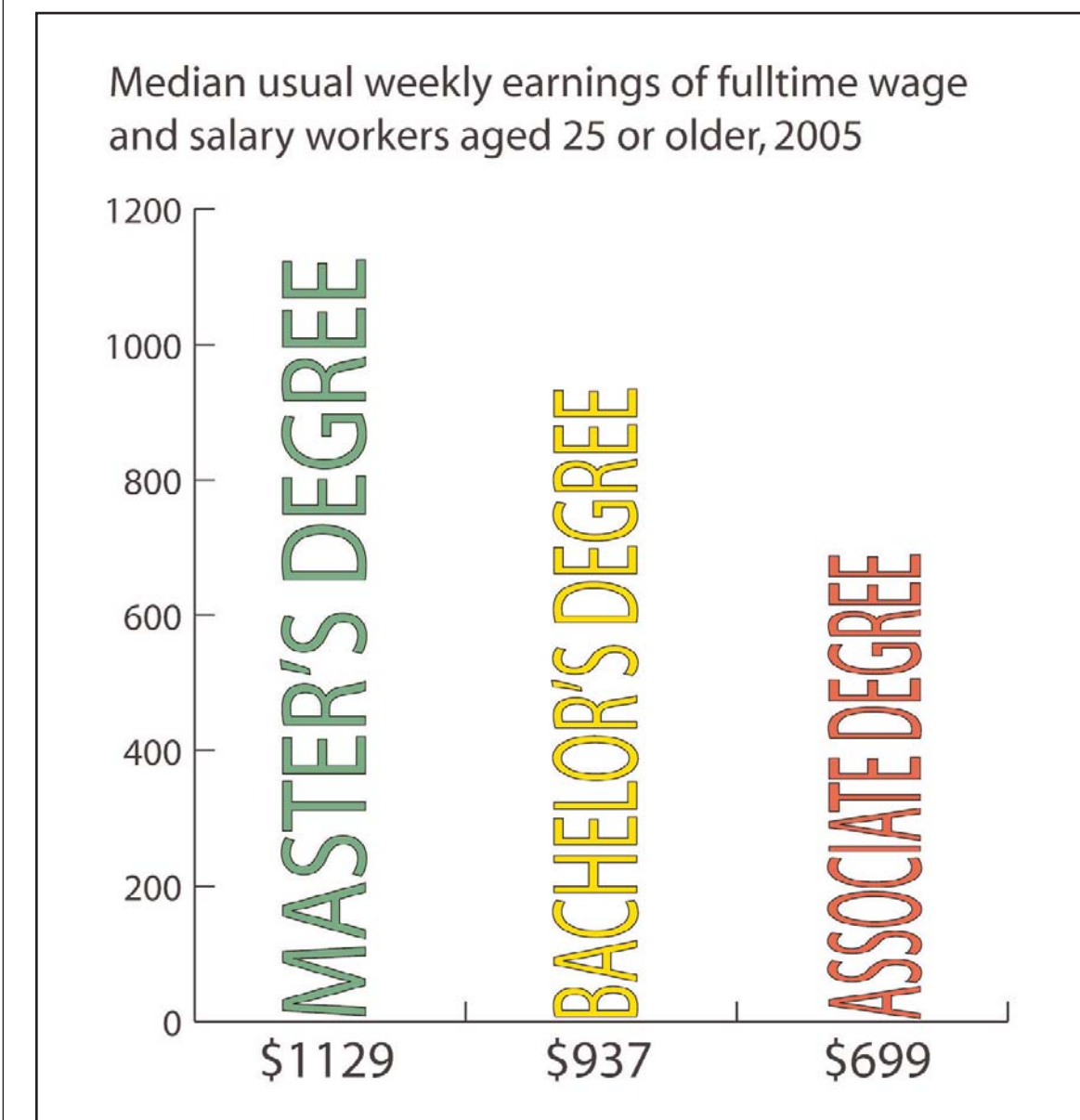
in most fields aincluding business management. Military test applicants need to fill out a form and provide a bill for the test so they can apply for the test refund.

The online option
Northwestern State University recently launched an online campus, this new service offers Airmen a way to earn associate degrees up to master’s degrees online away from the traditional classroom. However, Northwestern State is not the only school that offers this service.
Nationwide, institutions are offering courses online and online programs are especially attractive for deployers. Increased access to the internet and email make it easy for deployers to continue towards their educational pur-suits while serving abroad.
Students should thoroughly check an online program before committing. The counselors at the education office can check to see if your prospective program is accredited. If the academic program is not accredited, you can-not receive financial support.

Looking for something else?
Educational benefits aren’t limited to degrees. Airmen can use their well-earned benefits to gain certifications or licenses.
There are many job options for skilled labor. Airmen have used their benefits to become licensed massage therapists, commercial trucker driv-ers, and welders.
Up to \$9,000 can be used towards a license or certification while in ac-tive duty with a maximum of \$4,500 per fiscal year. This funding has al-lowed Airmen to puruse crafts and skills rather than degrees.

What now?
The educational benefits extended by the Air Force are substantial. The Air Force values education and the Airmen who seek it. A degree can help work towards that next promotion or build a second career. Whatever the motivation, the education office is ready to help you become the latest student at Barksdale U.

Education...What’s it worth?



On-base programs by the numbers:

- 5 associate degree programs*
- 7 bachelor degree programs*
- 6 master degree programs*



Academy band spreads news in Big Apple

BY 1ST LT. JOHN ROSS

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — A five-day tour by the U.S. Air Force Academy Band, accompanied by the cadet chorale and falconers, allowed it to reach more than 100 million people through performances in New York City and five national television appearances Nov. 22 - 26.

A tour like this isn't all glamour and lights.

"The amount of work was pretty amazing," said Master Sgt. Steve Przyzycki, a percussionist and tour manager for the band who's been working on the project for more than a year and a half. "The biggest obstacle was making sure everybody was -- no pun intended -- on the same sheet of music. Everybody had the same objective: to communicate the Air Force message.

Over the five-day span, various components of the band and chorale performed 10 times, including appearances at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Good Morning America, Fox and Friends, the Cathedral of St. Patrick and the illustrious Carnegie Hall. The band also made its routine visits to local area high schools and colleges for community relations and recruiting purposes.

Sergeant Przyzycki estimated the total audience reached on the trip to be in excess of 100 million.

"The depth of this kind of initiative is typical of what we've been doing over the last 15 to 20 years," said Master Sgt. Mark Israel, a trumpet player and 22-year member of the band. "New York is a bigger city, so you see a bigger splash, but this is how we've been doing it. This

kind of media coverage would (cost) millions of dollars. The cost of this trip was astoundingly low, pennies on the person, for the numbers we hit."

Help by local companies also kept expenses low. The New York Times ran four free advertisements for the band that would have cost \$15,000 each, while the Sheraton New York provided government rates on rooms it could have charged more than \$900 each per night. This also saved the band thousands on transportation by providing a central location.

"They understood what we were trying to do, that it was really about the young men and women fighting overseas," Sergeant Przyzycki said.

For those not involved in the planning end, however, the trip was business as usual -- almost.

"The marching rehearsals were something added that we wouldn't

normally do before a tour, but the concert band rehearsals were about the same," said Tech. Sgt. Sarah Balian, an oboist and media relations NCO. "This was a high profile and important tour. Everybody felt that and stepped up to the plate. We brought our A-game."

Band members returned to Colorado Springs Nov. 27, but they will have little down time in coming weeks as the band prepares for its holiday concert performances.

"The pace never really slows down," Sergeant Przyzycki said.



1st Lt. John Ross

Chief Master Sgt. Marcie Hureau sings with Wild Blue Country on Good Morning America Nov. 24 in New York City. The performance was part of a five-day tour by the U.S. Air Force Academy Band, accompanied by the cadet chorale and falconers, during which it had five national television appearances.



At the movies



“The Prestige”

Rated: PG-13

Playing: 7 p.m. today

Run time: 130 minutes

Cast: Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale

Synopsis: It all begins in rapidly changing, turn-of-the-century London. At a time when magicians are idols and celebrities of the highest order, two young magicians set out to carve their own paths to fame. The flashy, sophisticated Robert Angier is a consummate entertainer, while the rough-edged purist Alfred Borden is a creative genius who lacks the panache to showcase his magical ideas. They start out as admiring friends and partners. But when their biggest trick goes terribly awry, they become enemies for life.



“Flicka”

Rated: PG

Playing: 7 p.m. Saturday

Run time: 95 minutes

Cast: Alison Lohman, Tim McGraw

Synopsis: Sixteen-year-old Katy McLaughlin dreams of fulfilling her family legacy by working on her father’s ranch in modern-day Wyoming. But Katy’s father wants more for her, insisting that Katy go to college. Katy finds a wild mustang, which she names Flicka, and sets out to make her a riding horse. But Flicka and Katy are more alike than she could have imagined. Like Katy, Flicka has a disdain for authority and is not about to give up her freedom without a fight.



“The Grudge 2”

Rated: PG-13

Playing: 4 p.m. Sunday

Run time: 102 minutes

Cast: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Amber Tamblyn

Synopsis: In Tokyo, a young woman is exposed to the same mysterious curse that afflicted her sister. The supernatural force, which fills a person with rage before spreading to its next victim, brings together a group of previously unrelated people who attempt to unlock its secret to save their lives.

A free PG-rated screening will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the base theater. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available of the base exchange, food court and Burger King. This event is open to all – those without tickets must show up 15 minutes before showtime to be admitted.

Airman and Family Readiness

Airman’s attic shopping

Ranks E-4 and below and their dependents are invited to participate in this event Wednesday and Thursday. Active duty members may shop between 8-10 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses and children may shop from 2-5:30 p.m. Thursday. Call 456-8400 for more information.

Time Management

This class will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday and will offer a better understanding of time, knowledge of three basic time management strategies, the importance of proper planning, awareness of individual “time types” and common time wasters. Call 456-8400 for more information or registration.

Money and Relationships

These classes will be held Tuesday, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19.

Each class will explore new possibilities for financial understanding and teamwork for couples. Participants will learn how their money personality affects their relationship, how their beliefs about money influence their choices and how to plan together for financial success. Participants need to start the series at the beginning of the month and complete three consecutive classes for maximum benefit. Call 456-8400 to sign up.

Resume Workshop

This workshop will be held at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Participants will learn how to write a resume, what employers look for and what information to include. Participants will need to bring a floppy disk or a flash drive to save their resume and copies of their OPR/EPR. Call 456-8400 to sign up.

Chapel events

For off-base religious services, contact the base chapel at 456-2111.

Catholic services

Confession, 4:30-5:15 p.m. Saturday in Chapel Two

Mass, 5:30 p.m. Saturday in Chapel Two, 9 a.m. Sunday in Chapel Two and 11:30 a.m. Sunday in Chapel One

Christmas Concert

The Shreveport Metropolitan Concert Band under the direc-

tion of conductor Allen Swilley will offer a free Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 at Hoban Hall. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. For more information, contact the Base Chapel at 456-2111.

Protestant services

Traditional communion service, 9 a.m., Sunday, Chapel One
Community worship service, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Chapel Two

Inspirational gospel service, noon, Sunday, Chapel Two

Academy hockey team defeats Robert Morris 4-3

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. – Brian Reese scored the game-winning goal with 1:18 left in the third period as Air Force came from behind for a 4-3 win over Robert Morris Sunday at the academy’s Cadet Ice Arena.

Air Force improved to 8-7-1 overall. Robert Morris fell to 4-8-0 this season.

The Falcons ended a six-game losing streak to RMU as the Colonials beat Air Force five times last season. Air Force has now won four of its last six games.

Air Force scored first as Billy Devoney scored at 12:13 of the first period from David Martinson and Eric Ehn. Ehn fed Martinson in the neutral zone and the freshman skated down the right wing. He found Devoney in the high slot for his third marker of the season.

RMU tied the score and then took the lead in the second period. The Colonials tied the game at 3:04 of the second period as Jake Sparks scored on the power play with a slap shot from the point. The Falcons re-gained the lead at 10:29 on the power play as Theo Zacour scored.

Air Force was on a four-minute power play after penalties on Chris Margott. Brent Olson took a shot from the bottom of the left circle that clanked off the post and came out on the other side. Zacour knocked it in for his second of the year.

RMU tied the score at 12:46 after the Falcons turned the puck over. A pass to the point got past everyone and RMU’s Ryan Cruthers collected it in the neutral zone. His slap shot beat Falcon goalie Andrew Volkening to tie the score at 2-2. After the goal, Ian Harper replaced Volkening.

Five minutes later, RMU took a 3-2 lead as Chris Kaufman scored on the power play for a 3-2 lead. Aaron Clarke’s slap shot from the point rattled through the pads of Harper and got behind the goaltender. Kaufman snuck in from behind to score his first of the year.

Air Force rallied back for two goals in the third period. Print tied the game at 3-3 at the 12:12 mark. Zacour started a rush in the neutral zone and fed Olson whose shot was saved. Print, who dove in the pile while being pulled to the ice, slid the puck under the pads for his second of the season.

Reese’s heroics came in the final two minutes. He threw his body on the ice to block a shot by a Colonial defenseman with 90 seconds left in the third period. Freshman Jeff Hajner picked up the puck and skated it into the RMU zone. His drop pass was to Reese whose first shot was saved, but his second one got past Boucher.

The Colonials pulled the goaltender for the final 1:15, but were unable to get a shot on net. With time winding down, Print intercepted a pass at the blue line and sent the puck deep into the RMU end to eat up a significant amount of time.

Air Force outshot RMU, 42-22, in the game, including a 20-7 margin in the first period. The Falcons were just 1-for-8 on the power play while RMU was 2-for-4. Boucher made 38 saves in the game. Volkening made nine saves while allowing two goals in 33 minutes. Harper earned his fourth win of the season as he stopped 10 of 11 shots he faced in 27 minutes.

“Robert Morris is a very difficult team to play against,” head coach Frank Serratore said. “They have a goaltender that keeps them in every game and they have enough skill to score when they have chances. We got behind, but found a way to come back and get two even-strength goals in the third period. We didn’t capitalize on our power plays early in the game and it came back to haunt us. We put in Ian Harper after the second goal and he has now come off the bench to win two games for us this season. He has that in him. He is a battler.”

Air Force returns to Atlantic Hockey Association play next week as the Falcons host Sacred Heart, today and Saturday, at the Cadet Ice Arena.

Sports briefs

Twice the paintball

Open paintball is available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both Saturdays and Sundays. Players may use their own gear or rent it on site. Cost is \$12 a person and includes marker, mask and 100 paintballs. Only paint purchased at the field is permissible. Additional paint is \$4 for 100, \$15 for 500, \$30 for 1000 and \$60 for 2000. No sign ups are necessary. Players must be 10 years of age or older to participate. Call 456-7765 or 453-0976 for more information.